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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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# BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 4 2

July 1943

To: The Chairman and Members of )  
the Public Health Committee )  
of the Borough of Cowbridge.)

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1942 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2604 (1942) and 2773 (1943) (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

On the instructions contained in the Welsh Board of Health's Circular, the Report has been further shortened, and for reasons of National Security, the population and any figures which may be used to arrive at the population have been omitted.

### S E C T I O N. A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	275
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£22.4.
Rateable Value of District	£5376.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar General relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough, after correction of inward and outward transfers :-

Crude Birth Rate per 1000	16.9.
Still Births	-
Crude Death Rate per 1000	19.4.
Deaths from Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil

#### Death Rate of Infants under one year

Number of Deaths	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000.	95
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	3
" " Measles " "	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (Under two years of age)	1.

BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

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1942

July 1943

To: The Chairman and Members of  
the Public Health Committee

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria

31st December 1942.

Children under five years.	16.5%
" aged 5 to 15 years	63.1%

Area in acres  
Number of inhabited houses according  
to the Rate Book  
Sum represented by a Penny Rate  
Rateable Value of District

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The following statistics furnished by the  
Registrar General relate to the net births and deaths within  
Borough, after correction of inward and outward migration.

Gross Birth Rate per 1000  
Still Births  
Gross Death Rate per 1000  
Deaths from Natural and Non-Natural Causes  
Other Mortal Causes

Death Rate of Infants under one year

Number of Deaths  
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000  
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)  
" Venereal  
" Mental and Nerve (all ages)  
" Unknown (Under two years of age)

## Deaths

Crude death rate Cowbridge Borough	19.4.
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.6.
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	12.1.
Death Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan	12.5.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under various causes :-

Cause of Death	Male.	Female.	Total.
Heart Disease	1.	-	1.
Cancer	1.	2.	3.
Circulatory Disease	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1.	1.	2.
Influenza	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
Intracran. Vasc. Lesions	1.	1.	2.
Ill Defined	2.	1.	3.
Bronchitis	4.	-	4.
Premature Birth	-	-	-
Suicide	-	1.	1.
Diarrhoea	-	1.	1.
Appendicitis	-	1.	1.
Other Digestive diseases	2.	1.	3.
Nephritis	1.	2.	3.
TOTALS	13.	11.	24.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority :-

#### Medical Officer of Health (part time) :-

Dr D.J.Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London) M.O.H.

#### Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time)

Clifford H.Symmonds, A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Meat and Food Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

#### Health Visitor (part time)

Since the death of Nurse Rymer, no arrangements have been made for Health Visiting within the Borough.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

As there are no laboratory facilities within the District, arrangements have been made for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff.





DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE Numerous sanitary improvements have been carried out during the year and many choked drains have been attended to.

The drainage system of the Borough is very inadequate. With the exception of the new houses, which are drained to cesspools, and a section of the older houses having been converted to cesspools, and a much older section which connects up with a drain which discharges crude sewerage into the River Thaw, we are still very dependant upon the antiquated Pail and Privy-Midden system. The recently built Public Conveniences for both sexes have proved to be very essential and are much appreciated by the public.

As in previous Reports, I must once more state that the drainage system of the Borough leaves much to be desired being very unsatisfactory and is undoubtedly a potential danger to the Public Health. I must again emphasise the urgent need for substituting the present system by a more modern one.

RIVERS AND STREAMS As previously reported, the crude sewage and slop water from houses in the District is discharged into the River Thaw which flows through the Borough.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

W.Cs. connected to Cesspools.	144.
Closets connected to Town Drain.	50.
Closets emptying direct to River	5.
Pail Closets	16.
Middens	168.

PUBLIC CLEANSING A local Haulage Contractor holds a Contract with the Local Authority for the twice weekly removal of the house refuse within the area. The refuse is disposed of in an old quarry situated within the area of the Cardiff Rural District Council and about three miles from the Town. The tip is regularly treated for rats and there is now no undue infestation.


A Sanitary Cart is kept by the Local Authority for the purpose of emptying the contents of the cesspools within the Borough at the owners expense. The contents are disposed of by emptying over agricultural land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA The Sanitary Inspection of the area is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

SHOPS The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to ensure that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934 Public Health Act 1936 and Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

It has not been necessary to take any action for smoke nuisances during the year.



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## AMBULANCE FACILITIES :-

### (a) For Infectious Cases :-

The Cowbridge Borough Council contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital, and the Infectious Disease Ambulance of this Hospital is available, when necessary, for the removal of Infectious Cases from the District.

### (b) For Non-Infectious Cases :-

No Ambulance is available within the District for Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. Whenever an Ambulance is required for these cases, arrangements are made with the St John's Ambulance.

## NURSING IN THE HOME

This service has now been discontinued.

## TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are no Hospitals situated within the Borough.  
Fever The Local Authority contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital where cases of Infectious Disease occurs in the area requiring Hospital treatment.

Smallpox The Local Authority also contribute towards the Bridgend Smallpox Hospital.

General Hospital Patients from the District requiring treatment are admitted to either of the following Hospitals:- The Bridgend and District Cottage Hospital, Bridgend Infirmary or the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Tuberculosis Hospital A Tuberculosis Clinic established under King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association is situated at Bridgend about six miles from the Borough. Suspected cases are examined at this Clinic and, if necessary, arrangements are made for the admission of the infected persons to one of the various Sanatoria under the control of the Association.

Maternity Hospital When necessary, expectant Mothers are admitted to the Bridgend or Cardiff Infirmaries.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER

A constant water supply is provided for the Borough from the mains of the Mid-Alnmorgan Water Board. Samples of the supply were taken at different points in January, March, June and October of the year under review. In addition, one sample was taken for analysis from a well opened for use in case of emergency. All samples were satisfactory.

Continual complaints are being received in respect of the hardness of the water in the Public mains which fluxuates between 20 and 30 degrees.



SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS The Local Authority has control over one swimming pool which is constructed in the bed of the River Thaw. The flow of water through the pool is continuous and it is periodically emptied and cleansed. During the summer months, a Caretaker is in attendance at the pool and a daily washing of dressing rooms etc., is carried out.

SCHOOLS There are two Schools within the Borough, namely, The Cowbridge Grammar School and Pontfaen Council School.

Cowbridge Grammar School is situated in the centre of the Town. A constant supply of water is laid on and the New Annexe is fitted with modern showers, baths, water closets etc.,

Pontfaen Council School is situated on Broadway and is served with a constant supply of water. The sanitary condition is still antiquated and consists of pail closets (separate for sexes) and two urinals. Provision is made for the regular removal of the pail contents which has to be buried.

#### S E C T I O N D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply There is one Registered milk retailer residing within the Borough. Inspections were frequently made of the Dairy which was always found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. There are no producers of milk in the Borough. There are five Registered milk purveyors residing outside the district who sell milk within the area.

No action was taken during the year under review under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 with regard to sampling. Most of the milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area and since adequate control and supervision is carried out by the Officers of the district concerned, it was considered unnecessary to submit further samples for bacteriological examination.

(b) Meat and Other Foods Since the Centralisation of Slaughterhouses, no animals have been slaughtered within the area. As previously reported, the butcher and grocer shops in the area are regularly inspected and the amount of meat and other goods surrendered unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

Meat	37lbs.	Butter	46lbs
Offal	4 "	Margarine	89lbs
Tinned Foods	47 "	Cheese	70lbs
Total	88 lbs	Total	205 lbs

(c) Adulteration The administration of the Foods and Drugs Act 1938 is carried out by the Police.



# SECTION E.

## Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified etc., during the year 1941:-

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	5		
Smallpox	Nil		
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	Nil		
Puerperal Fever	Nil		
Pneumonia	Nil		
Dysentery	Nil		
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Total	7.	1	

## Tuberculosis

### New cases and Mortality during 1940

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non Respt.		Respt.		Non Respt.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1 - 5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5 - 15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
15 - 25	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
25 - 35	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
35 - 45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
45 - 55	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
55 - 65	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
65 years and over	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"



